

REMARKS

Specification Amendments

The specification has been amended to correct the reference of Figures 7(A), 7(B) and 7(C) and to delete the Cross-Reference to Related Application.

CONCLUSION

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following is a marked-up version of the changes to the specification.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 2:

[CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION]

Paragraph [0001] beginning at line 3 of page 1 and ending at line 5 of page 1:

[[0001] This application is based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-029678 filed in Japan on February 6, 2001, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.]

Paragraph [0012] beginning at page 5, and ending at page 6:

[0012] These and other objects, advantages and features of the invention will become apparent from the following description thereof taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view that shows one example of a reversible thermo-sensitive recording medium to which an image forming method in accordance with the present invention is applied;

Fig. 2 is a graph that shows the relationship between the reaction heat and the heating temperature at which a liquid crystal is allowed to transit from a crystal phase;

Fig. 3 is a graph that shows the relationship between the reaction heat and the heating temperature at which a liquid crystal is allowed to transmit from a fixed phase;

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Fig. 4 is a graph that shows the relationship between the heating temperature and a color development of a liquid crystal;

Fig. 5(A) is a flow chart that shows the process of image forming method 1;

Fig. 5(B) is an explanatory drawing that shows a display state of a recording layer in image forming method 1;

Fig. 6(A) is a flow chart that shows the process of image forming method 2;

Fig. 6(B) is an explanatory drawing that shows a display state of a recording layer in image forming method 2;

[Fig. 7 is] Figs. 7(A), 7(B) and 7(C) are [an] explanatory [drawing] drawings that [shows] show image forming processes;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view that shows one example of a hot stamp used in an image formation; and

Fig. 9 is a perspective view that shows another example of a hot stamp used in the image formation.

Paragraph [0033] beginning at page 14, and ending at page 14:

[0033] With respect to heating means used in the above-mentioned three heating processes, various heating means, such as a hot plate, a thermal head, hot stamp (stage), a laser and a hot roller, are listed. For example, as shown in [Fig. 7] Figs. 7(A), 7(B) and 7(C), a recording medium 1 is allowed to pass through hot rollers 11a and 11b so as to be set to a crystal phase (steps S11, 21), and by allowing this to pass right below a thermal head 12 so as to form a visible image or a latent image (steps S12, 22), and then by allowing this to pass through hot rollers 13a, 13b so as to be discolored or allowed to develop a color (steps S13, 23).